James Ritchie Bristol CT 06010 March 10, 2019

OPPOSE: S.B. No. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT,

OPPOSE: H.B. No. 7218 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.

OPPOSE: H.B. No. 7219 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.

OPPOSE: H.B. No. 7223 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A

MOTOR VEHICLE. (JUD)

SUPPORT: S.B. No. 940 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS.

SUPPORT: H.B. No. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES. **SUPPORT**: H.B. No. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

OPPOSE: S.B. 60

In 1976, I had my permit revoked by local PD because I was sitting at a coffee shop and about 2 inches of my shoulder holster was showing below my coat line. I appealed this to the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners with my attorney. The permit was returned after spending \$1,500 for such defense.

In both Terry v Ohio, 1968 and Thomas Pinner v. State, 2017 reaffirmed a police officer may briefly detain and question a person if the officer has a "reasonable articulable suspicion" that the person is engaged in criminal activity (or in the words of SCOTUS, "that criminal activity is afoot").

Both these cases are back by the 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and Article 1, Section 7 of the State Constitution The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions from unreasonable searches or seizures; and no warrant to search any place, or to seize any person or things, shall issue without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause supported by oath or affirmation.

Changes to the current law to remove "reasonable articulable suspicion" would violate the Supreme Court decision and now open the door to racial profiling. Or at worse bring us back to the 70's and the potential abuse of power by the police.

OPPOSE: H.B. 7218

This bill now infringes liberties inside my house. The issue that prompted this was the shoreline shooting of a teenager last year. As reported by the news media, the weapon was secured, emptied, and locked.

This could be handled better handled by changing the Negligence laws in this state. These additional requirements only hurt the minorities and poor of this state who will not be able to afford more than a gun lock to secure their weapons. Gun locks (Figure 1) have been free for many years by the Nation Shooting Sports Foundation and others.

Worse yet the way this bill is stated, a 16 or 17 year old who is confronted by an invasion of the home by those who may have the intent of rape or worse cannot protect themselves, which is in direct violation of Article 1 Sec 15: Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.

It is the parent's duty, not the state, to ensure appropriate training of their children in the responsibilities of usage of a firearm. My children were trained from the time they were little. Now all of them are adults with no incidents.

OPPOSE: H.B. 7219

ATF has ruled that an individual can design and build firearms for personal use. Sales of such firearms are prohibited and fall under the Federal Jurisdiction and carry greater penalties. The regulation further states construction out of composites or other nonmetal material has to contain a certain amount of metal embedded in the frame. That is already a federal law Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 (18 U.S.C. § 922(p). Under Federal Law, an unfinished lower receiver or frame is not considered a firearm. Again the State is trying to supersede Federal Law.

This also now includes items such as Exhibit 2. Building from a kit has been around for decades. This exhibit is just one of many that I built in the 70's, A Colt 1861 Navy black powder revolver. Are these now also going to be banned?

I am going to take it a step further. The Gun Control Act of 1968, Title 27, CFR, 478.92 requires all guns after this date to have a serial number located on the frame or receiver. What about all those guns from before that period? Are they now illegal?

Just like the CT Assault Weapons ban, the lack of enforcement has been proven under OLR research which found that most of the felons who were arrested were either Nollie or Plea bargain away. Only those who have had no record were prosecuted. SO who is the intended target of this legislation? Certainly not the criminals or gang members who are caught. You have to ask yourself why?

OPPOSE: H.B. 7223

In January 2018 the Office of Legislative Research released "Case Statistics for Firearms-Related Offenses". In that report 70% of offenders are not prosecuted. If they were prosecuted, it carries a 2 year minimum mandatory sentence. Over a 7 year period ending in 2018, 1,000 guns were stolen, mostly in the homes of owners. Now the majority of the legislators are pushing to make victims of crimes criminals? Could this be a trend by the majority to protect criminals and reduce incarceration rates only to go after a segment of the population that purses lawful acts? Or is the drive of the majority of legislators to control one's freedom or lawful acts?

This bill only now requires as stated that even going to the range with the firearms load in a travel case locked is no longer valid if you get out of the vehicle just to get a drink on the way to the range. This now adds additional cost to have a securely locked safe installed in the vehicle. This act prevent more modern ways alarms work on vehicles including GPS tracking when stolen and is an over reach of the government.

The words "securely locked safe" is to ambiguous to me. What is going to be allowed? A Pelican case or other TSA approved cases, or a conventional safe with titanium bars that when locked engages the frame?

¹ https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/rpt/pdf/2018-R-0018.pdf

In closing:

"The Constitution (both Federal and State) was not written to restrain the citizen's behavior, it was written to restrain the Government's behavior" – Ran Paul. It is clear that the majority of this legislative body is more concerned about taking lawful activities to become felonies instead of prosecuting criminals. Is it time to restrain the government from infringing on the citizens? Has the state become oligarchy: a government in which a small group exercises control especially for corrupt and selfish purposes?

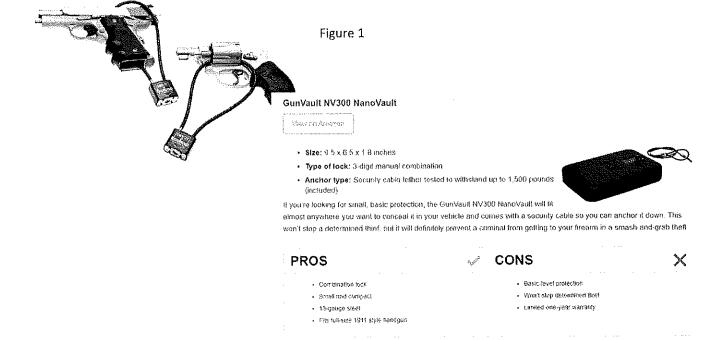


Figure 2

